

Individual measures

1. Cabinet to meet in every area of the UK
2. Citizens Assembly
3. Votes at 16
4. Party funding linked to votes
5. Young observers in government
6. A new PCC requiring the government and the media to inform the public in a balanced way
7. Measures on voter education/ civic education in schools
8. Voter registration initiative

9.	Royal Prerogative	See detail above: Announce decision to give up ability to declare war and ratify treaties. Alongside this announce review to consider case for codifying the prerogative powers and as part of that further consideration of other areas where the use of prerogative powers might be restricted.
10.	Each department's plans/objectives subject to debate in Parliament	Can be announced and implemented immediately. It might make most sense to tie this to the annual Estimates round where Parliament votes supply. However, only 3 days are available in the Parliamentary calendar for debates on Estimates. So extending the debate to each department could severely congest the Parliamentary.

		Alternatively the Government could decide to nominate departments to be debated or to do it in groups. This is not dissimilar to the means by which topics are chosen for debate now but could be more closely aligned to production of departmental business plans.
11.	Prior to second reading Government set out purpose of each bill and human rights impact assessment	Ministers must already sign a statement that any legislation is consistent with the HRA or else set out the case for derogation. It is unclear what added value there would be from another impact assessment. The production of, for example, Regulatory Impact Assessments can often already become more of a tick box exercise.
12.	Reinvigorating Cabinet Government	<p>Can announce now but need to be able to specify what this means.</p> <p>This doesn't require any specific process. But more work is needed on what precise changes would be introduced. There was an attempt to start this process after the last election by re-establishing the process of decision making through Cabinet committees supported by more rigorous official process.</p>

13.	Independently appointed legal advisor to the Government	<p>The decision to separate the Attorney General role from that of the Government's legal advisor and for the advisor to be appointed independently could be done now. It is unlikely to require legislation though that needs checking. This change presents opportunities to consider more broadly what happens to the AG's Departments and who fulfils the role of final arbiter in 'public interest' cases. These changes would be more complex and would require primary legislation.</p>
14.	Move to a fully elected House of Lords with clearer definition of powers	<p>A draft White Paper is likely to be published in the New Year that will begin this debate. It proposes a hybrid house, though it could be indicated that starting with a hybrid house the Government favoured moving over time to a fully-elected house and would keep this under review. However, indicating you wanted to move to a fully-elected house might create increased pressure to extend the powers of the Lords both now and in the future.</p>
15.	Salaried chairs of Select Committees and more resources for scrutiny	<p>The HoC agreed 12 months ago to pay chairs of committees a £12,000 supplement. They also at the time increased the resources available to Committees</p>

		(including making clerks' jobs more senior). It would be for the House to decide whether more investment was justified in voting its budget. It is not a decision for Government but you could say you would work with the House authorities. It would link with a decision to give Select Committees the ability to hold hearings on/ratify public appointments.
16.	Intelligence and Security Committee appointed by and accountable to Parliament	Announce a process to consider options for making the work of Services and development of plans/policies more accountable – e.g ISC to be appointed in normal way as Select Committees and a classified report to be subject of debate by Parliament (or wider group of MPs) meeting in closed sessions. Ideas to build on role of independent reviewer through creation of, for example, a National Security Commission to review a National Security Strategy.
17.	Creation of a Public Appointments Commission	This could model the commissions already established for the NHS and Judicial Appointments. Questions to be answered would be the roles covered by the Commission – e.g would it include civil service appointments (currently covered by the Civil Service

		<p>Commissioners), military appointments? Would ministers still be able to reject nominations (as is case for Judges and NHS) or would they be entirely removed from the process. Would Parliament replace or complement ministers?</p> <p>There is a question of what role Parliament should play in the appointment of Bishops (just as it might question the role of the Government) particularly if you move to a fully-elected house over time in which Bishops would not have seats.</p>
18.	Abolition of Orders in Council that give Special Advisers ability to instruct officials and clarification of Sp Ads roles	<p>This could be announced as drafted and implemented immediately. [<i>What changes might be proposed to Code of Conduct for Special Advisors?</i>]</p>
19.	A new contract for ministers including a new Ministerial Code formally administered by impartial civil servants not the PM	<p>What is envisaged by a new ministerial contract?</p> <p>On the Code it has been previously been recommended that investigations under the Code are conducted by an independent investigator (possibly appointed by Parliament). This would establish and make known the facts of the case. But that decisions on what action to take following an investigation</p>

		remains for PM as it his/her decision as to who should sit in the Cabinet. In this way Parliament could still more effectively hold Government to account. It would be difficult to pass the decision making role to civil servants. They would face a conflict of interest.
20.	Changes to the transparency of Government's relationship with the media	What is proposed here?
21.	Reforms to public honours	Do you want us to consider ideas now?
22.	Reforms to party funding	The Government will in any case need to respond to the Lord Phillips' report which will report by the end of 2006.
23.	Annual state of the Nation Speech and statement prior to Queen's Speech on how forthcoming package of legislative measures will promote core values	Need to look at timetabling of various statements and whether it makes sense to combine these ideas so that State of the Nation address is done at the start of Parliamentary session to set the tone for legislation and forthcoming agenda.
24.	Fixed-term elections	There is no obstacle to announcing now that the Government would consult Parliament through a vote before deciding to call the next election. If it wanted to move in due course to fixed elections or to formalise the

		role of Parliament in decisions on dissolution this could be part of the broader debate on the relative powers of the Executive and Legislature as part of consideration of the Royal Prerogative more broadly.
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